

PARK RULES

It's the Law

There are federal laws and regulations specific to national parks that protect Yosemite, its wildlife, historic and prehistoric sites and structures, and natural beauty. Protect your park by following these rules:

Camping or sleeping in vehicles is permitted only in designated campsites and is prohibited along roadsides, in turnouts, or in parking lots.

Bicycles (including mountain bikes), in-line skates, and strollers must remain on paved roads and designated paved bike paths. They are not allowed on hiking trails or anywhere off-pavement.

Motor vehicles must stay on established roads open to public travel. Vehicles are not permitted off-road.

Store your food properly, keeping it away from bears and other Yosemite animals (see page 3 for details).

Pets frighten wildlife and disturb hikers. They must be leashed at all times and are not permitted on any park trails, with the exception of paved trails on the floor of Yosemite Valley.

Do not remove any objects from the park, including pine cones, rocks, leaves, obsidian, historic items, etc. If you find an object that may be prehistoric or historic, do not move it. Note its location and inform a ranger. If you must collect something, please pick up litter!

The use of metal detectors in the park is illegal. Please report possible violations to a park ranger.

Firearms and hunting are prohibited in Yosemite National Park. Report possible hunting violations to the park's tip line, 209/372-0214, or to the Department of Fish and Game's tip line, 888/DFG-CALTIP, 24 hours a day.

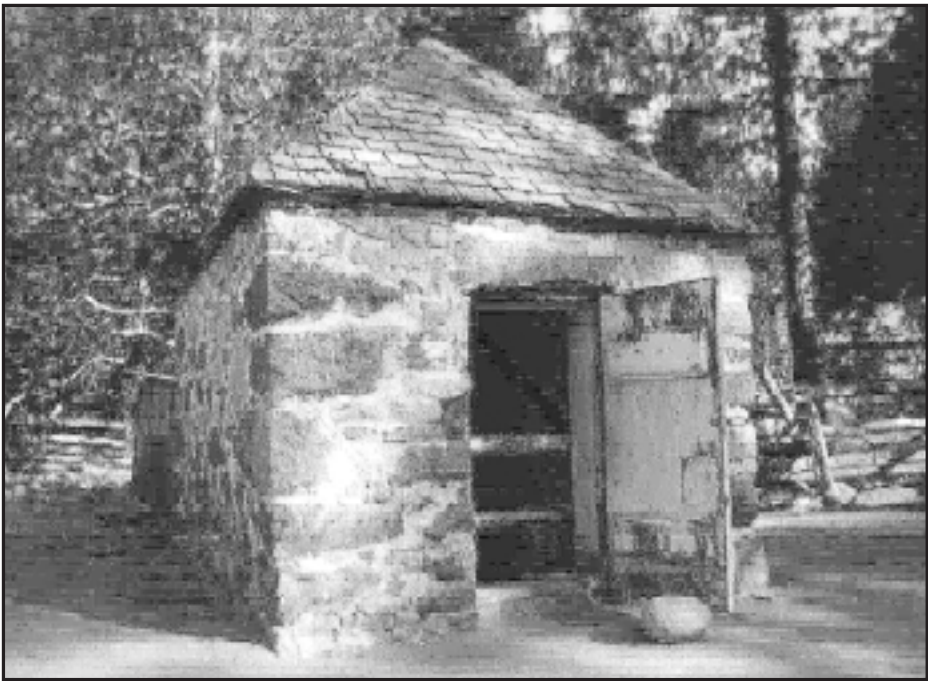
All public buildings are designated as non-smoking.

RECREATIONAL CLOSURE ON THE EL PORTAL ROAD

Due to construction along the El Portal Road (Highway 140), 6.4 miles of the road and Merced River corridor are closed to walking, climbing, hiking, swimming, fishing, bicycling, and kayaking. Vehicular access is limited to between 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m., except during holiday periods.

- Traffic is not allowed to stop, use turnouts, or turn around.
- Passengers must remain in vehicles.
- No overnight parking is permitted along the road.

For more information, ask at the Arch Rock Entrance Station, park visitor centers, or call 209/372-0200.



This stone building, which now stands at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, originally stood in Yosemite Valley's "Old Village." It was constructed as a black powder storage house but was also used as a jail and even a morgue.



RAFTING REGULATIONS

Rafting regulations have been implemented to protect river habitat and provide for visitor safety.

The entire length of the Merced River within Yosemite Valley will be closed to all flotation devices whenever the river gauge at Sentinel Bridge reads 6.5 feet or higher.

Rafting on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley is open to any type of non-motorized vessel or other flotation device between Stoneman Bridge and Sentinel Beach from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. In addition, the South Fork of the Merced River in

Wawona is open for rafting from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily between Swinging Bridge and Wawona Campground.

Each occupant of vessels or flotation devices on park rivers must have in their possession, and readily available, an appropriately sized U.S. Coast Guard approved life vest.

In order to protect the river's banks, rafters are encouraged to get out only on sand or gravel bars, and swimmers should use sandy beaches to enter and exit the water. Rafters must be aware that fallen trees may exist in the river. This natural debris can create hazardous conditions to river users, so extreme caution should be used.

These rafting regulations may be subject to change.

FISHING REGULATIONS

Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream through El Portal to the Foresta Road Bridge. In this stretch of the river, it is catch-and-release only for native rainbow trout. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used, and bait fishing is prohibited. Brown trout limits are five fish per day and ten in possession. It is the responsibility of the angler to identify fish species.

Trout season begins on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15. The only exception is Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, where fishing season does not

open until June 15 in order to protect spawning rainbow trout. All lakes and reservoirs are open to fishing year-round.

A valid California sport fishing license must be displayed by all persons 16 years of age and older who are fishing in Yosemite National Park. Licenses must be plainly visible, attached to outer clothing at or above the waistline. For more information about licenses and fishing, inquire at visitor centers.



HELP KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Did you know that feeding or closely approaching any park wildlife is prohibited by federal law? Your food

is a threat to the survival of park animals. It can damage their health, make them vulnerable to death from cars, or lead to dangerous behavior. Treat your food as if it were poison to animals, because the result is often the same. Even though animals may look tame—especially when searching for a hand-out—they are capable of inflicting serious injury, and in extreme cases, causing death. Never attempt to touch or closely approach any park wildlife. Instead, view wildlife through binoculars or telephoto lenses. A good rule-of-thumb: if an animal is aware of your presence, you're too close.

DRIVE SAFELY

In 1999, there were 381 motor vehicle accidents in Yosemite National Park. Sixteen bears were hit by vehicles. Speeding kills wildlife and people. Slow down and follow these driving tips to avoid accidents:

- Obey posted speed limits. Slow down when road conditions warrant. Be alert to rocks in the roadway, wildlife crossing, or other unexpected situations.
- California law requires that all vehicle occupants wear seat belts, and children 4 years of age (or under 40 lbs.) be restrained in an approved child safety seat.
- Do not stop in the roadway! Find a safe turnout if you wish to take a photo, consult a map, or enjoy park scenery or wildlife.
- Be courteous. Pull into turnouts to allow other vehicles to pass.
- Vehicles commonly overheat on uphill grades during hot summer temperatures. Avoid overheating by using lower gears and turning off air conditioning.
- Brakes may overheat, catch fire, or fail on downhill grades. Avoid brake problems by using lower gears and stopping at turnouts to allow brakes to cool.
- Don't drink and drive. It's a fatal combination.

Special regulations for the El Portal Road (Highway 140):

- Obey lowered speed limits in construction zone. Rough road conditions exist. No stopping or turning around in construction zone.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Food storage guidelines, see page 3.
- Camping and campfires, see page 4.
- Wilderness regulations, see page 5.
- Fire safety guidelines, see page 7.
- Bicycling rules, see page 11.